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Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 26 as follows:

Transport units 18 may be substantially similar to the transport units disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. Application, Ser. No. 09/675,237, filed Sep. 29, 2000 by Edwards et al., for DOUBLE WIDTH CROSSBELT SORTER, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,478,138 (Attorney Docket No. RAP04 P-611), the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. However, the transport units may also be of the type disclosed in International Publication No. WO 00/32502, published June 8, 2000 for A CONVEYOR/SORTER SYSTEM, A LOADING CONVEYOR AND A CONTROL SYSTEM FOR SUCH CONVEYORS; European Pat. Application, published Jan. 11, 1995 as Publication No. EP 0 633 208 A1 for ARTICLE SORTING METHOD AND SYSTEM; and/or European Pat. Application, published July 7, 1999 as Publication No. EP 0 927 689 A1 for METHOD AND EQUIPMENT WITH HIGH PRODUCTIVITY FOR THE SORTING OF PARCELS, the disclosures of which are hereby collectively incorporated herein by reference, or the like, without affecting the scope of the present invention. Preferably, each transport unit 18 includes a frame 20 and a side by side article support capable of supporting side by side articles, such as a pair of carrier belts 22a and 22b, which are supported on frame 20 and driven by corresponding drive motor(s), such as driving means 24a and 24b, in a direction generally orthogonal to the motion of transport units 18 along conveying path 16 (FIG. 3). Each of the drive motors 24a and 24b of each transport unit 18 are operable independently or in conjunction with each other, such as by using the principles disclosed in commonly assigned U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,520, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. Each carrier belt 22a, 22b of transport unit 18 is movable via actuation of corresponding motors 24a, 24b, which are either directly coupled to a corresponding carrier, or coupled via a belt drive pulley 23 by a cog belt 25. Because each drive motor 24a, 24b, and thus each carrier belt 22a, 22b, may be independently operated, transport units 18 are capable of simultaneously discharging a package from each belt to a corresponding side of conveyor path 16, and may

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further be operable to induct packages from either side, and/or transfer a package onto the other belt of the transport unit, as discussed in detail below. Preferably, transport units 18 are coupled by a coupling means 26 (FIG. 3), in order to move in unison as one or more trains along conveying path 16. Transport units 18 are propelled along conveying path 16 via a motorized drive system, such as a linear motor 28 of the type disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,520.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11 as follows:

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 2, article sortation system 10 includes a plurality of induction stations 12 positioned along both sides of conveyor path 16. A loadability sensor 38, such as a photo sensor or the like, is positioned upstream of induction stations 12 along conveying path 16 and is operable to identify or confirm which transport units 18 are not loaded and, therefore, which are available to be selected or "booked" by one of the induction stations for loading of a particular article. Each induction station 12 is under the control of induction control 36, and includes a series of individually controlled belts aligned at an angle with conveying path 16. In the illustrated embodiment of FIG. 1, the induction station is of the type disclosed in commonly assigned, copending U.S. Pat. application, Ser. No. 09/669,170, filed Sep. 25, 2000 by Affaticati et al. for HIGH RATE INDUCTION SYSTEM, now U.S. Pat. No. 6,513,641, the disclosure of which is hereby incorporated herein by reference. However, other induction stations, such as those disclosed in U.S. Pat. No. 5,588,520 or the like, may be used.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 14 as follows:

Additionally, because the sortation system of the present invention is capable of providing significantly improved throughput, the sortation system may accommodate induction stations which are operable at a higher induction rate than existing induction stations. For example, an existing induction station may have a throughput limit of approximately 3300 items per hour, while a high rate induction system may be operable

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with the present invention to induct approximately 6000 items per hour, thereby further enhancing the throughput of the present invention. Optionally, the induction stations or systems used with the present invention may be of the type disclosed in commonly assigned, co-pending U.S. Pat. Application Ser. No. 09/669,170, entitled HIGH RATE INDUCTION SYSTEM, filed Sept. 25, 2000 by Affaticati et al., now U.S. Pat. No. 6,513,641 (Attorney Docket No. RAP04 P-610), which is hereby incorporated herein by reference.